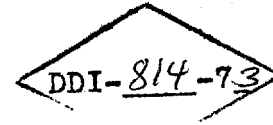




CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



15 March 1973

NSC review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : Transmittal of Requested Request

1. Attached is the request for authorization of SR-71 overflights of North Vietnam which you asked me to have prepared at the 13 March WSAG meeting.

2. This paper has four sections:

- I The Need
- II The Actual Request
- III Timing
- IV Specific Targets

3. What we are actually requesting, for reasons set forth in the paper, is authorization to:

a. Obtain the take of two complete mission equivalents, which may mean flying up to five missions against the total target mix described.

b. A repeat package (to establish current behavior trends) to be flown approximately two weeks after the first package is completed.

DIA review(s) completed.



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4. Timing, basically, is your option. It hinges on a political decision, not intelligence judgments. For your information, an SR-71 mission can be launched 24 hours after approval is given. What this actually means in practical terms, however, is that a mission can/will be launched on the first day the weather is feasible following a 24-hour lag after Washington approval is given. At this time of year, the North Vietnam weather for any given day is almost impossible to predict in advance. We might be lucky the day after approval or might have to sit for up to a week or so waiting for the weather to break.


5. To meet your deadline, I have short circuited normal procedures, but all appropriate bases have been touched. The attached proposal was prepared within CIA but has been blessed by COMIREX and concurred in by DIA's Directorate for Collection and Surveillance plus Admiral de Poix, the Director of DIA.

6. I defer to you on where we go from here. At this stage, you are this paper's only recipient (though the Chairman of COMIREX and Admiral de Poix of course each has a copy). I will do whatever you direct be done, e.g.:

(1) Arrange for appropriate operational orders to be issued;

(2) Distribute the request to the other WSAG principles and/or 40 Committee members;

(3) Nothing, until further instructed.


George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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Attachment

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O/DCI/SAVA:GACarver/lp

Copy No. 1 - Dr. Kissinger

Copy No. 2 - Dr. Kissinger

Copy No. 3 - Vice Admiral de Poix

Copy No. 4 -  (COMIREX)

Copy No. 5 - VAS/RAC Chrono

Copy No. 6 - VAS/RAC (Group C)

Copy No. 7 - DDCI


Copy No. 8 - DDO

Copy No. 9 - DDI ✓

Copy No. 10 - DDS&T

Copy No. 11 - GAC Chrono

Copy No. 12 - ER

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